

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-30. (Cancelled)

31. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

determining a number of buffers available at a second node to receive a received message; and

sending a message from a first node if at least one of:

~~a the~~ number of buffers available at ~~a the~~ second node to receive ~~a the~~ received message is determined by the first node to be at least equal to two, and

the number of buffers available at the second node to receive the received message is determined by the first node to be equal to one and ~~a the~~ number of buffers available at the first node to receive another message is at least equal to one.

32. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

receiving at the first node an indication of the number of buffers available at the second node to receive the received message.

33. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 31, wherein:

the first node and the second node are coupled together via a switched fabric.

34. (Currently amended) An apparatus comprising:

a first node capable of determining a number of buffers available to receive a received message at a second node, the first node further ~~a first node~~ capable of sending a message if at least one of:

~~a the~~ number of buffers available at ~~a the~~ second node to receive a received message is determined by the first node to be at least equal to two, and

the number of buffers available at the second node to receive the received message is determined by the first node to be equal to one and a number of buffers available at the first node to receive another message is at least equal to one.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein:

the first node is also capable of receiving an indication of the number of buffers available at the second node to receive the received message.

36. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein:

the first node and the second node are coupled together via a switched fabric.

37. (Currently amended) ~~A storage medium comprising a program that when executed by a machine results in~~ computer-readable storage medium having stored thereon a set of instructions which when executed cause a computer to perform a method comprising of:

determining a number of buffers available at a second node to receive a received message; and

sending a message from a first node if at least one of:

a the number of buffers available at a the second node to receive a the received message is determined to be at least equal to two, and

the number of buffers available at the second node to receive the received message is determined by the first node to be equal to one and a the number of buffers available at the first node to receive another message is at least equal to one.

38. (Currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 37, ~~wherein the program when executed also results in which when executed cause a computer to perform a method further comprising:~~

receiving at the first node an indication of the number of buffers available at the second node to receive the received message.

39. (Currently amended) The computer readable storage medium of claim 37, wherein:

the first node and the second node are coupled together via a switched fabric.

40. (New) The method of claim 31, wherein otherwise no message is sent.

41. (New) The method of claim 31, further comprising:

determining a number of buffers available at the first node to receive another message.